

INTRODUCTION:

The Cambridge ESOL Assessment and Guidelines Handbook for CELTA states that candidates must “have an awareness of language and a competence in both written and spoken English which will enable them to undertake the course and prepare for teaching a range of levels.”

Although no specific reference is made to actual language levels, such as the Council of Europe or for example Cambridge Proficiency, clearly you will need to have a very good command of English in order to satisfy all the criteria to pass the course.

The decision to offer you a place on a CELTA course is ultimately up to the Centre where you are applying to do the course.

Many non-native speakers do the CELTA course and pass it, but not before having their command of English assessed carefully. After all, the course involves a considerable investment of your time and money, and it would not be right to accept someone onto the course knowing there is a strong chance of their failing it due to their level of English.

THE PRELIMINARY SELF-EVALUATION

This diagnostic test aims to give you a realistic preliminary assessment of your grasp of everyday current language usage. It is not an official test, and has no validity other than helping you to decide (on the basis of your results) whether you should apply to do the course or not. If you are in any doubt, please contact me and we can discuss the matter.

INSTRUCTIONS:

There are four tasks. You should aim to complete all four tasks in under 45 minutes. Do not use a dictionary. When you have finished the tasks, check your answers with the key, and read the comments.

TASK 1

For each of the following sentences, write a new sentence which must include the word in **bold**. The word in bold cannot be altered in any way. The word in bold, if used correctly, will convey the same meaning as the underlined part of the original sentence. So your sentence must retain the meaning of the original sentence.

Example

0 Paul got an excellent teaching job the minute he finished the CELTA course. **sooner**

Answer: No **sooner** had Paul finished the CELTA course than he got an excellent job.

1 Mary hasn't done the CELTA course, as far as I know. **knowledge**

2 After the interview, the CELTA candidate ran away and no sign of her was ever seen or heard. **trace**

3 What gave you the impression that the CELTA course was only for native speakers? **led**

4 The CELTA interview lasted for almost 1 hour. **best**

5 As CELTA candidates come from all sorts of different backgrounds, you're bound to meet interesting people on the course. **chances**

TASK 2

The box below contains ten adverbs and ten adjectives.

Read the sentences below the box and fill in the gaps using an appropriate adverb + adjective pattern from the box. You can only use each adverb and adjective **once**, and there are obviously a number you won't need.

averted	boring	excruciatingl y	hotly	perfectly
beautiful	breathtakingly	fully	meant	sincerely
bitterly	cold	glaringly	narrowly	suspicious
booked	disputed	highly	obvious	valid

Example

0. On our last holiday we stayed in a room which had the most fantastic views. In fact, the scenery was. breathtakingly beautiful

1. The reason I fell asleep is that I was sitting next to that dull individual who never has anything interesting to say at all. He is such a / an _____ person!

2. We wanted to come back home one day earlier but when we went to the check-in desk to ask if there were any seats available, they said that unfortunately all flights were _____.

3. I hope we don't get another freezing Winter like last year's! Do you remember? Everyone complained how _____ it was.

4. Our boss looked really silly last week when he tried to pretend he was right when everyone else could see he was wrong. It was a / an _____ mistake.

5. Although I don't like my cousin very much, and his behaviour the other night was unforgivable, in the end I decided to accept his apology because it was _____.

TASK 3. Which one noun can come after each of these groups of seven adjectives? You need just one noun for each group.

Bad	_____
Good	_____
Hard	_____
Pure	_____
Rotten	_____
Sheer	_____
tough	_____

Heavy	_____
Late	_____
Light	_____
Liquid	_____
Packed	_____
Three-course	_____
working	_____

Adjoining _____
 Changing _____
 Common _____
 Dark _____
 Double _____
 Meeting _____
 Spacious _____

Blue _____
 Cottage _____
 Full-fat _____
 Grated _____
 Hard _____
 Mild _____
 Strong _____

Economical _____
 Estate _____
 Family _____
 Luxury _____
 Second-hand _____
 Sports _____
 Used _____

Derelict _____
 Detached _____
 Dream _____
 Empty _____
 Haunted _____
 Spacious _____
 Terraced _____

TASK 4.

Each of these sentences has an inappropriate word (verb, adjective or noun) Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

1. If you want to lose weight, getting on a diet will help, but you'll also need to do some exercise.
2. Having studied so much for the exam, it came as a strong disappointment to see that I only got 55 percent.
3. Why don't we split the bill down the half? We ate and drank about the same amount, I'd say.
4. Malcolm had a very grave accident. He was fine, but his car was a write off.
5. He has a remarkable present for sorting people's problems out.

Now check your answers in the key and read the comment.